

# The American Observer

*A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends.—James Monroe*

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## A Worm Turns

By Walter E. Myer

THIS is the story of a worm that turned, and then turned back again. It is the story of a good-natured, complacent man who started out to make himself over and then gave up; the story of an unsuccessful rebellion.

The man we are writing about was as unselfish as a person could be. Uncle John, for that is what all the neighbors called him, never missed a chance to perform a helpful, friendly act. He was always doing things for others, without expecting anything in return. He gave freely to every charity and in addition had his own list of those who needed assistance; and he did not fail them.

Uncle John's contributions were not always labelled by the dollar sign. He gave time as well as money. He cooperated with others when it didn't pay him financially to do so. He was forever looking for a chance to render a service.

Sometimes his services were appreciated. Sometimes they were taken for granted and then forgotten, just as helpful acts so often are. Seldom did anyone do anything for him, since everyone was in the habit of thinking of him as being on the outgoing rather than the incoming end.

Finally Uncle John got to thinking, and he said to himself: "All my life I've been getting most of my pleasure by doing things for other people. I haven't thought much about my own satisfactions. Now I'm getting old, and for the rest of the journey I'm going to look out for myself and other people can do the same."

So he began dining sumptuously and dressing expensively. He bought a new home and a new car. He spent money on himself as he had never done before. He gave thought to his own advantages, comforts, and satisfactions. He tried to forget those who were less fortunate.

Uncle John tried this experiment in calculated selfishness for a while, then gave it up. It really wasn't any fun. Too long had he enjoyed the very real pleasure which comes from helping others to enjoyment. Selfish satisfactions from which others were excluded now seemed cheap and shoddy.

Another fact was also discovered. He couldn't always find happiness for himself alone, but he could at any time render service to others, and since he found satisfaction in such acts, un-failing success was before him.

Uncle John carried on his rebellion until he learned from experience that "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Some people learn this in their youth, and they travel through life on the highway of happiness.

The English statesman, William E. Gladstone, said: "Selfishness is the greatest curse of the human race." It is responsible for most of our personal problems and worries, and for the failure of people everywhere to live together in harmony and peace.



Walter E. Myer



LONG MAY IT WAVE o'er freedom's land

EWING GALLOWAY

## World-Wide Struggle

Democratic Nations Seek to Prevent Spread of Communism and to Safeguard Their Vital, Hard-Won Liberties

TWO systems of life—democracy and communism—are engaged in a world-wide struggle for supremacy. The United States, of course, is leading the forces of democracy, and Russia is promoting the cause of communism.

The Soviet leaders are doing everything in their power to spread their system of government and industry, and to combat any ideas sponsored by our country. In the halls of the United Nations, in Latin America, Europe, Korea—around the world, the Communists are working tirelessly to carry out the ideas and plans agreed upon by the top officials in Moscow.

The United States, at the same time, is active in furthering the cause of democracy abroad, and we enjoy the support of many more countries than Russia does. Right now much of our effort is being devoted to shaping up the Marshall Plan for aid to Western Europe. If Congress approves, the plan will be carried out partly to help those countries recover from the war, and partly to keep them from turning, in their despair, to Russian leadership and communism.

This great contest between the United States and Russia is not merely one between two large and powerful nations. It is much more than that.

If communism spreads over a large part of the globe, our democracy will be seriously threatened. If, on the other hand, most nations follow our democratic leadership, the communist menace will be removed.

In order to understand just what is involved in this struggle, and to realize the tremendous stakes it holds for us, we need to see very clearly the violent contrasts between democracy and communism. These two ways of life are so vitally different from each other that it is hard for the average American to appreciate how great the difference is.

There has been endless debate about the full and complete meaning of the terms "communism" and "democracy." For example, it is sometimes argued that democracy and communism are not necessarily in opposition. It is said that a communistic country—a country in which all industries are owned by the state—might have a democratic government.

In this article we shall not define communism as it *might be*. In actual practice, communist nations today are not democratic. They abolish many of the rights which the United States, Great Britain and other democratic nations enjoy and cherish. Here are

(Concluded on page 6)

## Nations Under Soviet Control

American Newspapermen Tell of Extent to Which Eastern Europe Is Dominated

"WHAT goes on behind the 'Iron Curtain'?" That question has been asked thousands of times during recent months, and it is frequently answered by a shaking of heads. The very phrase "Iron Curtain" suggests seclusion and mystery. The curtain is supposed to seal off the countries of Eastern Europe which have fallen under Russian influence, and to hold them apart from Western Europe.

It is not easy to find out all that is happening in the countries which lie along the Russian border, but enterprising American newsmen have investigated conditions and have made comprehensive reports. A few months ago William B. King and Frank O'Brien wrote a very informative book on "The Balkans—Frontier of Two Worlds."

Representatives of the New York Times went over the ground carefully and reported on the shift to communism that has been under way in Eastern Europe. Later the New York Herald Tribune sent four experienced correspondents to the lands behind the Iron Curtain, and they have now reported their findings.

In the article which follows we shall consider problems of the Iron Curtain, using the question-and-answer form of discussion. Many of our facts are taken from the extensive study by the Herald Tribune.

What are the countries frequently spoken of as being behind the Iron Curtain?

From north to south the countries are Finland, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Austria, Hungary, Rumania, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria. For the most part this is a farming region, though there is extensive manufacturing in Czechoslovakia. The farming methods are backward in the southern countries

(Continued on page 2)



EDOUARD BENES, President of Czechoslovakia. His country is one of those under Russian influence.





COUNTRIES under Russian influence. The USSR zones of Austria and Germany are also behind the Iron Curtain.

## Soviet Control

(Continued from page 1)

and more highly developed in the northern. The population of the area is about 95 million.

*Do these countries maintain their independence, or have they been completely taken over by Russia?*

Russia controls them in the sense that she would not let any of them adopt a policy strongly opposed by the Soviet Union. For example, Czechoslovakia and Poland wished to take part in the Marshall Plan, but Russia forbade their doing so. In most respects, however, Finland and Czechoslovakia are independent. Hungary enjoys some, but not much, freedom from Russian interference. Rumania, Bulgaria, and Yugoslavia have practically no independence. Austria is occupied by the war victors.

*Has Russia put Communists in charge of the governments of the Eastern European nations?*

Russia has not done this openly; that is, she has not declared that the nations must become communist. She has, however, assisted the Communist parties in many ways. Furthermore, the people, even of such an enlightened country as Czechoslovakia, are afraid to displease Russia. Hence

many of them have voted the communist ticket.

Communist parties completely control Poland, Hungary, Rumania, Bulgaria, and Yugoslavia. They are very strong in Czechoslovakia and Finland.

*Does this mean that a majority of the people are Communists?*

The New York *Herald Tribune* investigators think that, in a fair election, the Communists might poll 25 per cent of the votes in Finland, 15 per cent in Poland, 35 per cent in Czechoslovakia, 20 per cent in Hungary, and 5 per cent in Austria.

Even though a majority of the people are not Communists, leaders of this party have been able to take over the governments. There are several reasons for this. The parties opposed to communism have usually been divided, whereas the Communists work compactly together and are determined and energetic.

As we said before, many people have voted communist because of a fear of Russia. Another explanation is that in many of the countries, particularly those in the Balkans, governments have nearly always been inefficient and corrupt. The people have been poor and oppressed. The Communists make lavish promises to them and many of them are influenced in that way.

*Have the Iron Curtain countries put*

*communism into effect by having the government take over private industries?*

That is happening in some countries. In Yugoslavia 95 per cent of the industries, aside from agriculture, have been taken over by the government. In Finland, however, practically no private industries have been taken over since the war. In Czechoslovakia, probably two-thirds of all private business has been taken over by the government.

In some of the other countries, the government does not actually own the industries but enacts laws regulating prices, wages, profits, and all the other operations of the industries so closely that there is not much left of private ownership or "free enterprise."

*Do the Iron Curtain countries carry on trade with the nations of Western Europe?*

It is Russia's hope that this bloc of nations along her frontier will eventually carry on commerce solely among themselves and with Russia. The Soviet plan is that these countries will not trade with the United States and the Western European nations. It was partly because Russia did not want the Eastern European nations to trade with the West that she kept them from accepting the Marshall Plan.

Russia does not, however, forbid the eight countries along her borders from carrying on trade with Western Europe, and, as a matter of fact, a great deal of such trade passes across the national borders. Finland trades more with Western Europe than with Russia; so does Czechoslovakia. The other countries behind the Iron Curtain trade chiefly with their neighbors and with the Soviet Union.

The Eastern European nations have agricultural products to sell. In exchange they would like to get from other countries steel, tools, and machinery so as to develop their manufacturing industries. They cannot get such manufactured goods from Russia, for she needs all that she can obtain.

On the other hand, the Russians can get along without the food which the Iron Curtain countries have to sell. That is why these Eastern European nations, in spite of Russia's wishes, are selling grains and other foods to Western Europe and are receiving manufactured goods in return.

*How large are the armies which Russia maintains in the Iron Curtain countries?*

She has no armed forces in Finland, Czechoslovakia, or Yugoslavia. She has about 150,000 in Poland, and 30,000 to 40,000 in Austria, 40,000 in Hungary, 100,000 in Rumania, and around 70,000 in Bulgaria. The total of her occupation armies is about 400,000. The *Herald Tribune* correspondents estimate that Russia had five million men in this territory at the end of the war. More than nine-tenths of them have been taken out.

However, in a country like Czechoslovakia, where no Russian troops are actually quartered, the people know that they are relatively near at hand. Hence they are afraid to do anything which Russia would strongly oppose. Though the Red Army does not have a great many divisions in the neighboring nations, it is, nevertheless, a powerful influence in determining the policies of these countries.

*To what extent is there personal and political freedom in the lands along the Russian borders?*

There is a great deal of difference among the eight countries with respect to liberty and freedom. The *Herald Tribune* correspondents make this comment:

"We found that Eastern Europe today is anything but a unit. We found countries where the influence of the Soviet Army is strong. We found countries where it is weak. We found civil liberties in some states and political terror in others. Finland and Czechoslovakia reminded us of the United States. Yugoslavia recalled conditions in the Soviet Union."

These news men found that it was very easy to gain admission to Finland, Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Austria. After having entered these countries they had little difficulty in getting around, talking to people, and obtaining the information which they wished.

In Hungary, Rumania, Bulgaria, and Yugoslavia, the situation was very different. It was hard to get permission to enter these nations. The correspondents finally got into Rumania without having obtained consent. In these countries and in Yugoslavia it was hard to obtain interviews with officials and it was not easy to get information from the people them-

(Concluded on page 6)



## Your Vocabulary

In each of the sentences below match the italicized word with the following word or phrase whose meaning is most nearly the same. Turn to page 8, column 4, for the correct answers.

1. *Coercion* (ko-ur'shun) had to be used to get the job done. (a) bribery (b) force (c) trickery (d) shrewdness.
2. What do you think is the most prevalent (prev'ā-lent) fear in the world today? (a) unfounded (b) dangerous (c) understandable (d) widespread.
3. The senator was asked to *re-iterate* (rē-it'er-ate) his arguments. (a) defend (b) explain (c) retract (d) repeat.
4. Mr. Smith sought the crowd's *adulation* (ad'yū-lay-shun). (a) support (b) action (c) praise (d) financial aid.
5. The novel reflected the *turbulence* (tur'bew-lence) of that age. (a) spirit (b) customs (c) importance (d) agitation.
6. He tried not to show his *abhorrence* (ab-hor'ence) of the whole scheme. (a) fear (b) hatred (c) liking (d) ignorance.
7. The doctor often made *facetious* (fuh-see'shus) remarks to his patients. (a) consoling (b) witty (c) frank (d) cynical.

## SMILES

They say that this year's most embarrassing moment came at a recent convention of physicians and surgeons when somebody got up and cried, "Is there a doctor in the house?"

★ ★ ★

One of the most pitiable victims of anti-noise campaigns is the able-bodied young man who actually has to get out of his car and ring the front doorbell.

★ ★ ★

A Swedish chemist has evolved a suit of pajamas made of wood. It seems a very drastic solution of the crumbs-in-the-bed problem.



"My daughter's out—and if you're Bill, she'll see you at Grace's, but if you're Eddie, phone her tomorrow."

Football Captain: "Johnson, I hear that you studied your lessons yesterday."  
Johnson: "Yes, I did."  
Captain: "Well, I'll let it pass this time, but it looks as though you're neglecting your football."

★ ★ ★

Then there is the type of individual who phones in a dozen votes for radio amateurs each week but forgets to register for election day.

★ ★ ★

Someone is trying to determine what is the oldest joke in the world. We don't know, but "Elect me and I'll reduce taxes" dates a long way back.

## Weekly Digest of Fact and Opinion

Are Crime Stories in Movies, Comics, and Radio Programs Harmful?



A BROADCAST of "Mr. District Attorney." NBC is moving its crime programs to later evening hours so that younger children will not hear them.

What effect do crime stories presented in the movies and comics, and over the radio have on American youth? Do they lead to juvenile delinquency and crime, or do they promote wholesome entertainment? Such questions are frequently asked these days—and are given a variety of answers. In the paragraphs which follow we quote or summarize some of the opinions on this subject which have been expressed by public officials, investigators, and high school students.

J. Edgar Hoover, head of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Today's movies, many of which deal with crime, exert a tremendous influence upon pliable young minds. Law-enforcement files are filled with stories of juvenile offenders who confess to having derived the ideas for their crimes from the movies. In case after case, young criminals who have been caught stealing cars, snatching purses, or breaking into homes have said they saw such crimes committed in gangster movies.

Radio, likewise, exerts a powerful influence for good or evil. Police records show that many young people are prompted to commit offenses after hearing realistic crime broadcasts. One 13-year-old boy who committed 41 burglaries before he was caught by the police boasted of his skill in opening safes and said he had learned how to do it from listening to a radio serial. He demonstrated by opening the safe of the Chief of Police in a few minutes. Crime books and comics which glorify criminals are also extremely dangerous.

But the fact that some movies, radio programs, and comic books incite crime is no argument for banning all of them. Those which are realistic and teach the lesson that crime does not pay have a real educational value.

Mrs. James Loomer, motion-picture chairman of the Federation of Catholic Alumnae, the group which previews films for the Legion of Decency. The great majority of motion pictures do not have a harmful effect upon American youth. We have the statement of two experts, a former warden of Sing Sing prison and a former psychiatrist of the New York Police

Department, that they did not know of a single instance where the motion picture was the real cause of a criminal career. On the other hand, they found many cases where good movies had influenced criminals to reform and lead better lives. Movies which provide wholesome entertainment and inspiration should be given our support, and those which glorify crime should be shunned.

Dorothy Wesley, student at Anniston High School, Anniston, Alabama. Too many of our movies today leave a bad impression on the minds of young people. I have asked dozens of average theater-going high school students this question: "Do movies raise or lower your moral standards?" They almost invariably answered, "Well, they certainly don't raise them."

Investigators who have interviewed youthful criminals report that many of these young people learned to crack safes, pick locks, and elude the police by seeing such actions portrayed in the movies. If movies teach young people how to commit crimes, they certainly do not help to raise our moral standards.

Leonard Harris, student at James Monroe High School, New York City. Some movies have harmful effects, it is true, but the great majority of them do not. The most popular movies are those which have a morally uplifting theme, and they more than overbalance the few bad pictures which appear each year.

The movie industry deserves credit for setting up its own board of review, called the Johnston Office, to enforce high standards. In addition, many states have Boards of Censors which would not permit immoral movies to be shown in those states. As a result, the great majority of our movies today do not stimulate crime, but promote high ideals.

Jimmie Fiddler, Hollywood columnist, commentator, and movie critic. Fifteen per cent of all the murders in this country are committed by persons under 21 years of age. Over half of all burglaries are committed by youthful criminals. Where do they learn these things? Not in schools, not in churches, not in their homes. They learn them, I charge, from the movies, from radio, from

lurid comic strips, and newspaper crime stories. Of all these, the movies are the most dangerous.

Hollywood makes many excellent pictures, but it also makes others which have bad effects. Films which show crime, drunkenness, and low moral standards can do untold harm, particularly to our youth.

Arthur Freund, chairman of a special committee of the American Bar Association. The movies, radio, and comic strips feed American youth a diet which is heavy with crime. As a result, juvenile delinquency is on the increase in the United States.

Representatives of law and order are often shown in an unfavorable light. Lawyers are portrayed as being cruel, selfish, tricky and unethical. Judges are sometimes pictured as being dictatorial and unfair in their handling of cases. The general impression is not one which increases respect for the law.

Stanford University Survey. An investigation carried on in three California communities shows that only a small minority of young people read "comic" books which deal with horror, crime, and violence. No evidence was found to support the charge that the reading of comic books undermines children's morals or hurts their taste for good literature.

Most readers of such publications enjoy those which have animal characters, humorous incidents, and lively adventure stories. Students with poor vocabularies turn to the comic books because they have not been taught how to read anything better.

Although the League of Nations is no longer in existence, the magnificent Palace of Nations, which formerly housed the League in Geneva, Switzerland, is being used for many international meetings. The UN General Assembly may meet there next September.



J. EDGAR HOOVER, head of the FBI, believes radio, movies, and comics can be an influence either for good or for evil.



# The Story of the Week

## French Political Scene

General Charles de Gaulle is the most talked about man in France today. During the war, he was the number one hero of his country, but his political ideas were not widely accepted in France after the fighting ceased. For a number of months, he stayed in the background and refused to take any part in public life.

A short time ago, however, he organized a new political organization called the "Reunion of the French People." The two main goals of this party are to change the Constitution which France adopted shortly after the war ended, and to keep the Communists from gaining control of the government of that country.

General de Gaulle's party met its first test in the recent elections in France. While these elections were for local offices, they were held all over the country. Consequently, they showed the political views of the French people today.

When the ballots had been counted, it was found that the new party was in a strong position. Exactly how strong it is, we do not know at the time of this writing, but it is definitely in the front line of competition.

Until these elections, the strongest party in France had been the Communist. The Popular Republican Party was the second largest political



GENERAL CHARLES DE GAULLE, France's wartime hero, is now making a successful bid for political power.

group. Its leaders, together with the Socialists and several smaller parties, were in control of the government. The Communists were not represented in the government, even though they were the strongest single political group.

Today, the Communists are not as strong, even though they polled the same number of votes in the recent elections as they had received in previous ones (about 30 per cent of the total). But General de Gaulle's party is giving them more competition than they have ever had before. The new party gained at the expense of the Popular Republicans.

Since the Popular Republican Party is very strongly opposed to communist control of France just as de Gaulle's party is, it would seem that the political situation has not actually changed very much. The fact is, though, that de Gaulle's victory is considered a real blow at the Communist Party. Its members had expected to gain at the polls, and they did not. Moreover, de Gaulle is the



NO ONE will get atomic secrets from these papers. Every day all waste paper with confidential matter on it is burned by guards at the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission in Washington, D. C.

foremost French opponent of the Communists.

Up to the present time, the French people who oppose communism have not joined together in one party. Instead, they have separated into a number of political groups. Often these groups have refused to work together in the government, thereby crippling its activities. This disunity has played into the hands of the Communists. When the government has been unable to act, they have shouted about its weakness and have promised to establish a strong and efficient government.

There is now a chance that the anti-Communist forces may unite and rally behind General de Gaulle. It may be that his party can win a clear-cut majority of the seats in parliament. If it does, it will then be in a position to govern the nation without having to depend upon the support of other political groups. In such an event, the government will be able to act more vigorously and efficiently both in dealing with the nation's problems and also with the Communist threat in France.

As we go to press, the French cabinet is being reorganized as a result of the recent elections. We do not know at this time exactly what official role General de Gaulle and his party will play in the government. If, however, it keeps its present strength, it cannot long be overlooked.

## Movie Hearing

The congressional investigation to determine whether there is communist influence in Hollywood and the movie industry has attracted much attention. Among the witnesses have been a number of prominent actors and motion-picture producers.

Many film potables have objected to the investigation. Congress, they argue, has been trying "to smear the motion-picture industry." They say that it is dangerous for the government to start "inquiring into matters of thought, speech, or opinion" of individuals and private organizations. A number of stars, including Paulette Goddard, Van Heflin, Gregory Peck, Henry Fonda, Myrna Loy, and Katharine Hepburn sent a telegram to Washington stating their objections to the hearing.

Other Hollywood actors and producers point out that American movies have a great influence upon the minds of people in this country and abroad, and that Congress was certainly justified in opening an investigation to learn whether communist propaganda is going into the nation's films.

Among well-known producers called by the government have been Jack Warner, Louis B. Mayer, and Sam Wood. Actors, including Adolph Menjou, Gary Cooper, Robert Taylor, and Robert Montgomery, were asked to be witnesses. Menjou, one of the first to testify, expressed the opinion that communism has long been a threat, but that it is now on the decline in Hollywood. He named two wartime movies, "Mission to Moscow" and "North Star," as films which showed the communist point of view.

The investigation has been carried on by the House Committee on Un-American Activities. Chairman of this group is Representative Parnell Thomas, Republican, of New Jersey.

## Frontier Province

Many of the residents of Sinkiang Province on the remote, northwestern frontier of China are demanding their

independence. Unless China grants it soon, they threaten to go to war.

The independence movement is strongest in the western part of the province which borders on Soviet Russia. The people in this region revolted in 1944 and won some concessions from the Chinese. However, they did not get their complete independence.

The lack of ties between these people and the government of China is understandable. Nanking, China's capital, is more than 2,000 miles from Kuldja, the small frontier city where the independence movement centers. Deserts and mountains block traffic between the two areas. The residents of Sinkiang, most of whom are of Turkish descent, feel little loyalty toward the Chinese government.

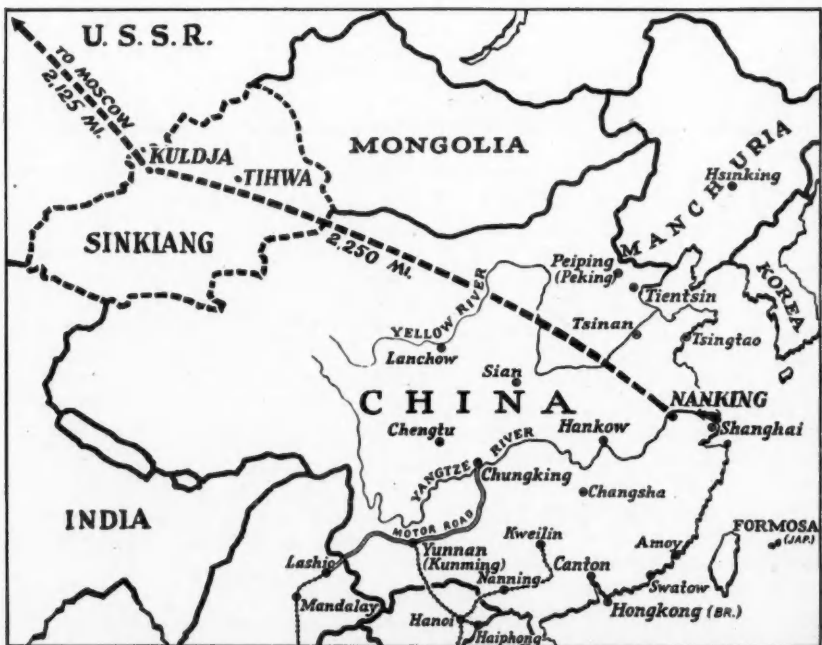
Although some of the people of Sinkiang Province were born in Russia, the borders of which are but 60 miles from Kuldja, few of them want to be under Russian rule. What they want is to set up a free country under the ancient name of Turkestan.

## Ryder Cup Matches

The Ryder Cup golf matches, which were concluded yesterday in Portland, Oregon, brought together all-star professional golf teams of the United States and Great Britain. This famous international competition had not been held during the war years. Played every two years before the war, the matches were last held in England in 1937.

Captain of the 10-man British team was the veteran golfer, Henry Cotton. Only three of the visiting team had played in the previous matches 10 years ago, and most had never before played in this country. Except for Cotton, Fred Daly, an Irishman who holds the British Open championship, was the best known member of the British team.

The American group was headed by Ben Hogan, the winner of many tournaments in this country. To match Daly, the Americans had Lew Worsham, open champion of the United States. Other members of the home team included Byron Nelson and Sam Snead. Of the six times that the competition was held before the war,



SINKIANG, a province of western China, demands independence





"WHERE THERE'S LIFE" gives Bob Hope ample opportunity to display his comedy talents

the American team won on four occasions. If you are interested, see your daily newspaper for the winner of the match concluded yesterday.

### New Hope Film

"Where There's Life," Bob Hope's latest picture, finds the veteran comedian as funny as ever. His jokes and wise-cracks follow one another rapidly in a movie which has one of the craziest plots yet.

Hope is a disc jockey in a radio station. Just before his marriage, he is kidnapped by a group from Moravia who think that Hope is the son of their dying king. Hope doesn't want to succeed to the throne, so he escapes and is alternately captured by the Moravian group and by some black-hooded revolutionaries. To add to the confusion, he is also pursued by his fiancée and a policeman. It all adds up to a riotous time.

Playing opposite Hope, as the "General" who heads the Moravian mission, is Signe Hasso. As a policeman William Bendix supplies some additional laughs.

### Special Session

Preparations are well under way for the special session of Congress which is to meet two weeks from today. Many Congressmen are now hastening back from foreign trips to reach Washington by that date. Lawmakers in this country are heading toward the national capital.

Congress will be expected to act on two big problems—aid to Europe, and the high cost of living. Although they seem to be separate, these two problems are actually closely related. The higher the living costs in this country, the more difficult it will be for our government to buy the supplies needed by Europe. The solution of one problem is directly linked to the solution of the other.

What Congress will do with the Marshall Plan is, of course, not known at present, but there seem to be indications that some kind of an aid-to-Europe plan will be passed. Many Congressmen, recently returning from investigating trips overseas, are convinced that we must help provide the necessities of life to the war-ravaged nations of Western Europe. Secretary of Interior Krug's report that we have enough resources in this

country to help others without endangering ourselves also strengthens the position of those who are urging the adoption of the Marshall Plan.

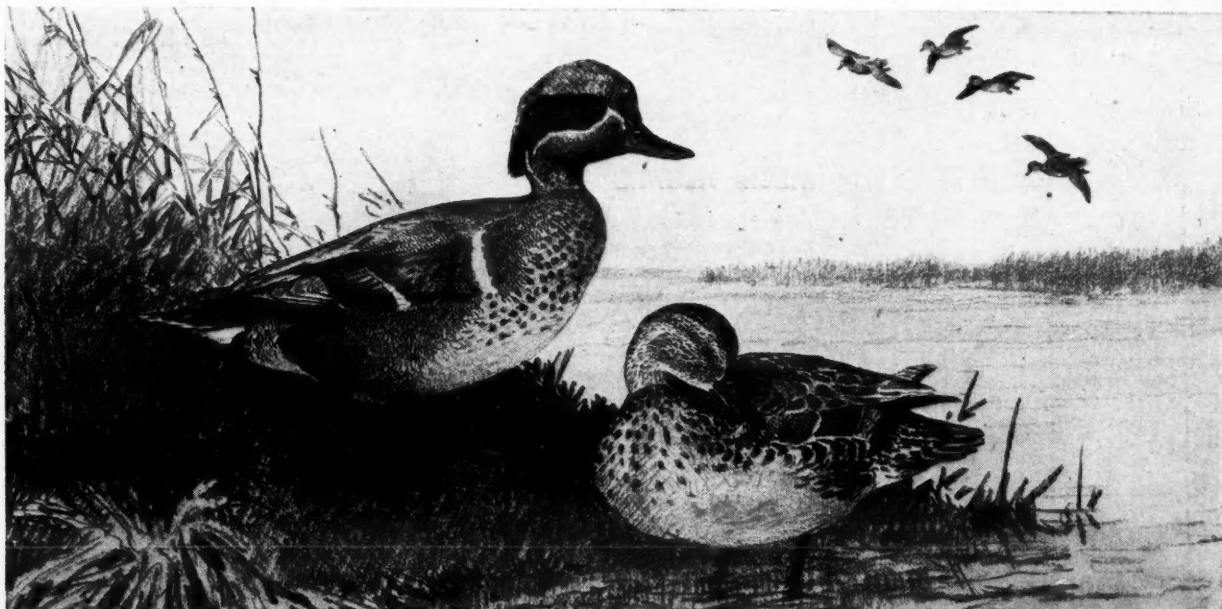
When this plan comes up for discussion, one of the chief arguments against it will be that the people of Europe are not helping themselves as much as they could—but are sitting back and waiting for American aid. This argument will be discussed more fully in next week's AMERICAN OBSERVER.

There is a widespread difference of opinion on how living costs can be lowered. When that problem comes before Congress, a variety of ideas will be advanced. We shall discuss them as they are presented.

### Disappearing Wildlife

The hunting and fishing problem in this country is growing increasingly acute. Unless vigorous steps are taken, it will soon be worse. That is the gist of a recent article in *This Week Magazine* by Bob Deindorfer on the wildlife situation in America.

The author says that this fall there will be more than 13 million hunters searching for game that has almost disappeared. The scarcity has been caused by drought, reduction of timberland, harsh weather, disease, starvation, poor conservation methods, and illegal killing.



AMERICA'S WILDLIFE is seriously threatened. More vigorous action should be taken to conserve it

Little can be done about drought and harsh weather, but careful planning could eliminate most of the other causes. The shooting season might be strictly limited in accordance with the amount of game available. More protected marshland might be opened for ducks. Laws against the pollution of streams might save many fish.

Deindorfer points out that the wildlife situation could be greatly improved if hunters and fishermen would all realize the seriousness of it. Many are strangely indifferent and use illegal methods to get game and fish.

### Happy People

North of the Arctic Circle, along the shores of Baffin Bay, live a people without written laws or formal government. They are the Polar Eskimos, only about 300 of whom are left today.

Commander Donald MacMillan, who recently returned from a summer expedition to the Far North, says they are the happiest people he has ever met. They live in tiny villages, residing in igloos of sod and stone in the winter and in sealskin tents in the summer.

In each village the best hunter automatically becomes the leader. Most of the summer months are spent in hunting for walrus, seal, and Arctic birds. During the winter and spring when travel by dog team is possible, the polar bear may be hunted.

Although these people are, in name, under the rule of Denmark, actually they follow their own customs and live as their fathers before them. They do not know what armies are. When disputes come up, they settle them by individual tests of strength such as wrestling.

### More Paper for U. S.

Millions of feet of pulpwood may soon start flowing from Alaska to U. S. markets. The Tongass National Forest in southeastern Alaska has recently been opened for the sale of timber to be used in making paper.

This region, about 100 miles south-east of Juneau, has never been worked over by lumbermen. It is estimated that a mill with a capacity of 525 tons a day can run for 50 years, processing the timber now for sale in the area.

## Study Guide

### Democracy vs. Communism

1. What are the two systems of life which are now engaged in a world-wide struggle for supremacy?
2. How is the Marshall Plan a part of that struggle?
3. Describe elections in the United States, and contrast them with those in Communist countries.
4. What is meant by freedom of assembly? By freedom of religion?
5. Describe the differences between court trials in democratic and Communist countries.
6. Give other examples of the freedom that citizens of a democracy have.

### Discussion

1. Name as many ways as you can in which you can help to promote democracy.
2. Do you think the United States is justified in helping countries economically in order to oppose the spread of communism? Explain your answer.

### Iron Curtain

1. List the European countries behind the Iron Curtain.
2. Is the area they occupy mostly industrial or agricultural?
3. To what extent does Russia dominate these nations?
4. How have Communist leaders been able to control the governments of the Iron Curtain countries, even though most of the people are not Communists?
5. In which Eastern European nations have the governments taken over most of the industries?
6. Why are the Iron Curtain countries, in spite of Russia's wishes, trading with Western Europe?

### Discussion

1. In your opinion, will Communist power increase or decrease in the lands behind the Iron Curtain? Explain your answer.
2. What policy toward these countries do you think the United States should follow?

### Miscellaneous

1. What has been the purpose of the investigation recently carried on by the House Committee on Un-American Activities?
2. What twofold effect is the opening of the Tongass National Forest expected to have?
3. Give some of the reasons for the widespread scarcity of fish and game in this country.
4. Name three outstanding facts about Burma.
5. What is your attitude toward radio, movie, and comic book crime programs?



# World Struggle

(Concluded from page 1)

some of the priceless freedoms and privileges which democratic peoples possess and which communists, wherever they are in control, have stamped out:

**Government and Politics.** In the United States, the people are supreme, and the government is their servant. The right of the people freely to choose their leaders is granted and guaranteed by the U. S. Constitution and by the constitutions of the states. Voting is done by secret ballot.

American candidates of the Republican, Democratic, and minor parties are free to seek the support of the people. No one party has a permanent upper hand, and none is free from competition.

A winning candidate is installed in office for the term to which he is elected. At the end of that term he must seek reelection in order to remain in office. A losing candidate is free to criticize the actions of the winner, and to attempt to defeat the man holding office in the next election.

In Russia and other countries under the sway of communism, the government is all-powerful, and the people are its servants. Control is held in the hands of a small group of leaders.

At times, there are elections, but these are conducted in such a way that there is no danger of the leaders' losing power. Only one slate of candidates appears on the ballot—the men already in office. Voters are compelled to go to the polls and mark their ballots openly so that there may be a big turnout in favor of the group in power.

Under these conditions, the Communist Party is the only party permitted to exist. As quickly as it gets into power in a country, one of its first acts is to begin stamping out rival parties. Opposition leaders and supporters who do not yield and cooperate are arrested, imprisoned, beaten and sometimes killed.

**Speech and Press.** In the United States, we are guaranteed the right to speak, write, and publish what we please. We may either criticize or praise those who are in office, and support or oppose their plans. Even though the majority of people may be against what a man says or writes, he is still free to "say his piece."

Where communism is in the saddle, there is no such thing as freedom of speech or press. Everything that is said or written must be in praise and support of the group in power. Criticism is permitted only against citizens or groups that are not working hard enough to carry out the programs of the government.



HERE we have free elections

**Assembly.** It is so easy for us in this country to hold meetings that we may forget how much our right to assemble freely means to us. In large groups or small, we may get together to make political plans, to hear speeches, and to show that we either support or oppose men who are in office.

It is a much different story under communism. Just as people may not speak or write freely, they may not hold meetings to suit themselves. If they get together, it must be to demonstrate support of the government and to learn its wishes.

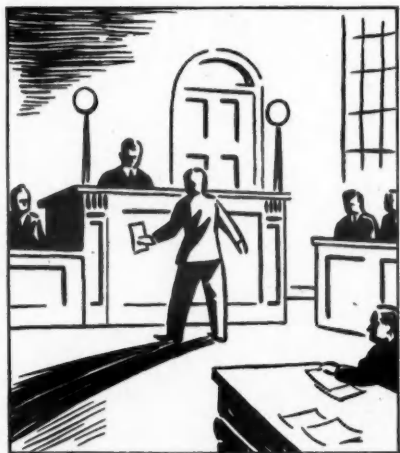
**Court Trials.** Our democracy guarantees that a person accused of crime must have a fair trial. He is considered innocent until proved guilty, and cannot be punished for a serious crime until he has been convicted by a jury of citizens. He can even carry his case to higher courts in an attempt to establish his innocence.

Communism imitates some of these methods, but does not carry them out in spirit. An accused person may be punished swiftly, or he may be taken before a court. In court, the judge may hand down the decision or a "jury" may do so. But in any case, the accused person is treated in just the way that the government wants him to be.

**Search and Seizure.** American police may not ruthlessly search a person's home or seize him for arrest. Instead they must obey certain rules which are designed to protect the individual's rights.

Communist police, on the other hand, may search and arrest as much as they please. The only excuse they need is to be carrying out government orders; the citizen has no protection against them.

**Religion.** With the democratic right to worship as they please, the American people support a wide variety of



... trial by jury ...

faiths and beliefs. The government does not tell them to uphold or to oppose any church or religious group.

The extent to which religion is free in Russia is a disputed point. After the Communists came to power they closed the churches and destroyed freedom of worship. During recent years opposition to religion has declined. The churches are open and the claim is made that religion is free. There are, however, many complaints of interference with the churches.

We have taken up only certain of the main differences between life in a democracy and life under communism. In general, we should not forget that in a democracy, a person is free to choose the occupation he likes best. Nor does he fear that his neighbors are spying on him, ready to report him to the government for something he may have said or done.

In a communist-controlled land, the citizen works at any job designated by the government and does everything else that he is ordered to do. He must guard his words and actions carefully at all times lest he be reported to the police and arrested.

We in the United States realize that conditions here are not perfect in every respect. There is still room for much progress. At times we do not take full advantage of our opportunities, nor do we always live up to our democratic ideals and principles.

The fact remains, however, that the American people are free to correct injustices and to move toward higher goals. Individually and collectively, we in this country have a maximum of power over our own destiny. No small group of leaders can force us to adopt policies which we know to be wrong.



... and freedom of religion ...

Each person can be constantly working and fighting for what he believes to be right. How precious this privilege is cannot be entirely appreciated unless one has lived or traveled in a dictator-controlled country such as Russia.

In the struggle between democracy and communism, therefore, our stake is the freedom we enjoy—freedom which would be taken away from us if the Communists had their way.

How can we oppose them? For one thing, we can study and make up our minds what the American government should do in the way of combating communism and of promoting democracy abroad. When we have reached our decisions, we should express ourselves freely and try to influence as many people as possible, including government officials.

As for dealing with the Communist threat in our own country, J. Edgar Hoover, FBI chief, gave some excellent advice in an article for *Newsweek*. He said:

*We can successfully defeat the Communist attempt to capture the United States by fighting it with truth and justice, implemented with a few "don'ts":*

*Don't label anyone as a Communist unless you have the facts.*

*Don't confuse liberals and progressives with Communists.*

*Don't take the law into your own hands. If Communists violate the law, report such facts to your law enforcement agency.*

*Don't be a party to the violation of the civil rights of anyone. When this is done, you are playing directly into the hands of the Communists.*

*Don't let up on the fight against real Fascists, the Ku Klux Klan and other dangerous groups.*

*Don't let Communists in your organization or labor union out-work, out-vote or out-number you.*

*Don't be hoodwinked by Communist*



DRAWINGS BY JOHNSON

... press, speech, and assembly ...

*propaganda that says one thing but means destruction of the American Way of Life. Expose it with the truth.*

*Don't give aid and comfort to the Communist cause by joining front organizations (those sympathetic to Russia), contributing to their campaign chests or by championing their cause in any way, shape or form.*

*Don't let Communists infiltrate into our schools, churches and moulders of public opinion, the press, radio and screen.*

*Don't fail to make democracy work with equal opportunity and the fullest enjoyment of every American's right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.*

## Soviet Control

(Concluded from page 2)

selves. The people were afraid to express themselves.

There is freedom of speech and press in Czechoslovakia and Finland, but not in Poland, Rumania, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, or Hungary. In these countries government policies cannot safely be criticized by the press.

*What do the people behind the Iron Curtain think of the United States?*

The Communists oppose America and American policies bitterly. They follow the Russian line and say that the United States is planning a war of conquest, and that Russia is trying to protect the interests of the people and to maintain peace.

Many of the individuals who are not Communists have great admiration for the United States. They are anxious to know what the American people are thinking and planning. They feel neglected because the Americans seem to make so little effort to tell their story and to explain American purposes.

The *Herald Tribune* report speaks of the failure of the United States government to maintain an information service large enough to acquaint the people of Eastern Europe with us and our policies. The Russians are leaving no stone unturned to make themselves popular. The *Herald Tribune* says that in Rumania alone, the Soviet Union maintains 306 libraries, compared with one supported by the United States.

The *Herald Tribune* report says that there is still a chance, despite Russia's powerful influence, to win the friendship of some of the governments of Eastern Europe. "The battle of ideas in Eastern Europe is still open," it says. "Regardless of crowded jails and an effective secret police, Soviet power in this area will never be really secure until communism wins this battle for men's minds."



## Science News

The American Public Health Association is experimenting with a new chemical which, if added to sugar at the refinery, might help to prevent tooth decay. This chemical neutralizes the harmful acids formed in the mouth when sugar is eaten. It may prove to be a great boon to dental health.

\* \* \*

The United States Atomic Energy Commission has a new department. A committee of eight members—engineers, geologists, and mining experts—will have as its job a hunt for deposits of uranium. At the present time, our chief sources of this scarce metal, which is used in the production of atomic energy, are in Canada and the western part of the United States.

\* \* \*

Authorities of American occupation forces have been waging a great campaign against cholera in Japan and Korea. That disease, which is most often found in countries where sanitation is poor, or where the water supply is contaminated, caused 11,000 deaths in Korea last year. In the fight against the epidemic, 18 million people in southern Korea have been given anti-cholera inoculations.

Korean immigrants took the disease to Japan, so 35 million Japanese were inoculated. The vaccinations were so successful that no cases of cholera have been reported in the two countries during 1947.

\* \* \*

A fungus disease is attacking sycamore and buttonwood trees in the state of New Jersey. The growth spreads around the limbs and trunks of the trees and eventually causes them to die. Agriculture Department experts are trying to find a way to combat the fungus which, they fear, might destroy all trees of these types.

## Our Readers Say—

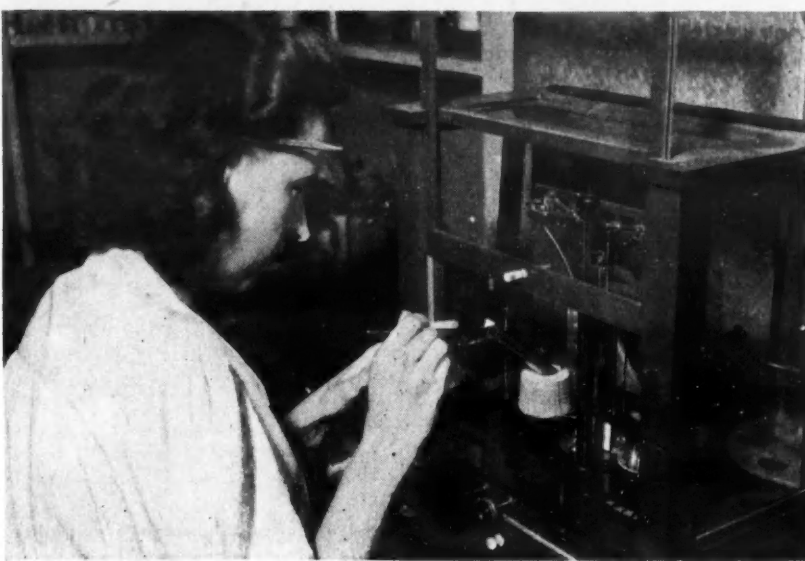
I believe the development of a code of standards for radio programs is a very necessary move. People are becoming disgusted with the abundance of advertising on the radio. Already many people refuse to listen to the programs. If the sponsors do not take heed they will find themselves in trouble.

JERRY BOGOSLAVSKY,  
Fort Smith, Arkansas.

\* \* \*

I am inclined to disagree with the authorities you cite who say the age for eligibility to drive should be raised. Our present age is 15 years and that is too high.

This being an agricultural state most farm boys learn to drive tractors and cars when they are around 10 years old. They drive trucks of grain to the elevators in town, and must drive to school because of the great distances.



LABORATORY TECHNICIANS are essential medical workers

## Future Career - - - Technician

THE laboratory technician, or medical technician as she is sometimes called, makes the chemical tests that are the basis of many of the nation's health activities. She assists doctors by doing analyses that he uses in diagnosing illnesses. Her work helps public health departments in keeping water supplies pure, in preventing epidemics, and in protecting the public in other ways. Technicians also work for food and drug industries, where they test products to see that they are kept at high standards.

To qualify for a career in this field, a person must like chemistry, for the work is very much like that done in a high school chemical laboratory. The technician must be patient and accurate, and she must be skilled in using her hands, because she often has to make very small and precise measurements. Good health and excellent eyesight are necessary. A technician cannot be squeamish about working with diseased tissues, bacteria, and the like.

Students may prepare for this field in one of several ways. Those who expect to work in private or city hospitals must sign up with the Registry of Medical Technologists of the American Society of Clinical Pathologists. To register one must have completed at least two years of college work, with emphasis upon biology and chemistry, and must have had 12 month's additional specialized training. Information about schools and clinics that give this training may be secured by writing to the Registry of Medical Technologists, Ball Memorial Hospital, Muncie, Indiana.

To qualify for work with the federal government, a laboratory technician must be a high school graduate and have had three years of laboratory experience; or she must have finished college and have had at least one year's experience. A list of the full requirements for jobs as technicians with the federal government may be obtained from the U. S. Civil Service Commission, Washington 25, D. C.

Persons who like laboratory work and can appreciate the importance of this field of health service will find satisfaction in a career as laboratory technician. They will also have the advantage of working in clean surroundings, and with an interesting, considerate group of people—doctors and nurses for the most part.

On the other hand, there are certain disadvantages that should be faced before one decides definitely upon this career. The work is frequently routine, and it is tiring. Unfortunately, there is little opportunity for advancement, unless the technician adds to her qualifications by taking advanced work in chemistry or medicine.

A rare individual with outstanding ability may secure a position teaching nurses or other technicians, but such jobs are few in number. Supervisory positions in laboratories usually go to trained physicians, and the best research jobs in the field are filled by persons with Ph.D. or medical degrees.

Furthermore, the technician does not earn a large salary. Beginners get about \$90 to \$110 a month, and after several years' experience they make only about \$125 to \$150 a month. The top salaries are usually around \$200 a month. Despite these disadvantages, many laboratory technicians would not trade their work for any other kind. Practically all the people in this field are women.

By CARRINGTON SHIELDS

## Monthly Test

*Note to teachers.* This test covers the issues of THE AMERICAN OBSERVER for October 6, 13, 20, and 27. The answer key appears in this week's issue of *The Civic Leader*.

*Directions for students.* After the corresponding number on your answer sheet for each of the following items, write "true" if the statement is true, and "false" if the statement is false.

1. A plan for the international control of atomic energy can be adopted by the UN Security Council only if all of the "Big Five" nations agree to it.
2. Italy possesses abundant supplies of coal, iron, and oil to run her factories.
3. Prefabricated houses do not come up to the standards set by building codes in some communities.
4. Army engineers are building a series of dams along the Missouri River to prevent floods and supply electric power for homes and factories.
5. A majority of the countries represented on the UN Atomic Energy Commission are opposed to the American plan for the control of atomic energy.
6. The southern part of Korea, which is under U. S. supervision, contains most of that nation's factories.
7. The food-saving campaign now under way in the United States is expected to cause food prices to drop a great deal.
8. The weight of present atomic equipment is too great to permit the use of atomic energy for ordinary ships or railway locomotives.
9. Italy is not included among the 16 European nations which have agreed to work together under the Marshall Plan.
10. The cost of food for the average American family is now about twice as much as it was before the war.

11. The President's cabinet now has 10 members.

12. Communist leaders of 9 European countries recently set up an "Information Bureau" to spread communist propaganda.

13. According to the Italian peace treaty, Italy has been permitted to continue its control over the city of Trieste.

14. Under a program of food rationing, each individual or family is legally permitted to buy only a certain amount of the rationed food.

15. The Taft-Hartley Act is strongly supported by most labor unions.

16. Russia has refused to accept the proposal to divide Palestine into separate Arab and Jewish states.

17. Some of the world's richest oil fields are located in countries belonging to the Arab League.

18. The Taft-Hartley Act outlaws the closed shop.

*For each of the following questions and incomplete statements, write the number of the correct answer on your answer sheet.*

1. The Russian plan for controlling atomic energy provides that (1) the United Nations immediately begin to inspect all mines, factories, and laboratories in every country, (2) all nations sign a treaty to outlaw the use of atom bombs, (3) an international Atomic Development Authority be set up to operate all atomic energy power plants, (4) no nation be permitted to veto action by the UN Security Council on atomic energy matters.

2. The Taft-Ellender-Wagner bill proposed at the last session of Congress dealt with what subject? (1) aid to Europe under the Marshall Plan, (2) control of atomic energy, (3) the housing problem in the United States, (4) pensions for veterans.

3. During World War II, the "Big Five" nations agreed that Korea should (1) eventually become an independent

(Concluded on next page)

It would be impossible for a farmer to come out of the field at nine in the morning to take his children to school.

The suggestions in your article might work for some parts of the country, but would be highly impractical for South Dakota.

DICK COLWELL,  
Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

\* \* \*

You published a letter from Mary Ann Montavon of Akron, Ohio, in which she said, "The United States should put the formula (for atomic power) in a vault, forget the combination, and discover another kind of power that is less destructive."

I disagree with her point of view. A power which can be so beneficial to humanity as atomic power should not be discarded. It would be but a short time before Soviet scientists discovered the formula anyway, and we should be the losers.

KENNETH L. KING,  
Palisade, Colorado.

\* \* \*

In discussing your article on health, we formulated a plan to encourage more students to take up the medical profession. We suggest that each state make a survey of all its high school seniors interested in a medical career. Then it should conduct competitive tests to determine those best qualified, and give these seniors medical training financed by the state.

ELIZABETH REID and  
CAROLYN CLAWSON,  
Logansport, Indiana.



## Monthly Test

(Concluded from page 7)

nation, (2) be annexed to Russia, (3) return to its former status as a Japanese possession, (4) be governed by the United Nations.

4. The Union of South Africa is noted for its production of (1) industrial machinery, (2) textiles, (3) lumber, (4) gold and diamonds.

5. The largest political group in Italy today is (1) the Communist Party, (2) the Christian Democratic Party, (3) the Socialist Party.

6. What provision does the Taft-Hartley Act make for dealing with strikes which threaten the national health and safety? (1) It strictly forbids all such strikes. (2) It permits courts to call for an 80-day "cooling-off period" during which workers must stay on the job. (3) It requires both workers and employers to accept the terms worked out by the National Labor Relations Board.

Identify the following men who are prominent in the news. Choose the proper description for each man from the list given below. Write the capital letter which precedes that description opposite the number of the man to whom it applies.

1. Oswaldo Aranha
  2. George C. Marshall
  3. Andrei Vishinsky
  4. Fred Vinson
  5. Sir Stafford Cripps
  6. Charles Luckman
  7. Palmiro Togliatti
  8. Robert Denham
- A. Chairman of Citizens Food Committee
  - B. Prime Minister of Pakistan
  - C. U. S. Secretary of State
  - D. Italian Communist leader
  - E. Chief Justice of the United States
  - F. French Foreign Minister
  - G. Russian delegate to the UN General Assembly
  - H. British Minister of Economic Affairs
  - I. President of UN General Assembly during the present session
  - J. General Counsel of the National Labor Relations Board

In each of the following items, select the word which most nearly defines the word in *italics* and write its letter on your answer sheet.

1. His actions in the emergency were *laudable*. (a) cowardly, (b) cruel, (c) praiseworthy, (d) subject to criticism.
2. The inventor showed great *ingenuity*. (a) originality, (b) patience, (c) speed, (d) ambition.
3. The old professor had a *benign* expression. (a) intelligent, (b) kindly, (c) sad, (d) thoughtful.
4. The cost of the new house was *exorbitant*. (a) moderate, (b) low, (c) unknown, (d) excessive.
5. What do you think her *ultimate* goal is? (a) first, (b) final, (c) most important, (d) assigned.

Answer each of the following questions directly on your answer sheet.

1. Name the largest of Italy's former colonies in Africa.
2. How many members are there on the U. S. Supreme Court?
3. Where will the 1948 Olympic Games be held?
4. In what country do Rhodes Scholars study?
5. What name is given to strikes caused by disputes between two labor unions?
6. Yugoslavia has recently broken off diplomatic relations with which Latin American country?

# Full Independence for a British Colony

Burma Will Withdraw from the Empire in January

BURMA, one of Great Britain's Far Eastern colonies, is to become a free nation next January. Since 1612 this fabulous land, separated from the rest of the world by high mountains and the sea, has been a prize sought by European and Asiatic powers. Not until 1826 did Britain finally establish undisputed control over the area. In 1942 Japan took over the colony and, on the surface, made it "independent." When Japan surrendered, Britain returned to Burma, and negotiations for a real independence were begun.

Burma covers an area of 262,000 square miles, about the size of the

around the waist and hanging to the ankles. On top a simple jacket is worn. Jewelry is often elaborate.

The people are good-natured and cheerful. Because their land is so productive, they have to work very little to live. Consequently they spend much of their time in gay festivals.

More than 80 per cent of the people are farmers who live in small rural villages. There are about 50 houses in each village, and all are built in much the same way. Each is made of bamboo and straw, and is set high above the ground on poles. The furniture is simple—the beds, for example, are grass mats that are folded away in the daytime. Cooking is done out of doors over an open fire.

The cultivated land is a short distance from the villages. Farming methods are primitive, but the fertile soil and good climate produce record crops. Before the war, Burma was the world's leading rice exporter. Tropical fruits and vegetables grow well in the warm, rainy climate; and Burma also produces nuts, rubber, and cotton. The water buffalo is the main work animal on the farms.

Burma has few factories, but the country is thought to be rich in minerals. Oil resources have been found, and silver, tin, and coal are awaiting development. Gold lies on the river bottoms, and rubies, jade, and sapphires have been discovered.

Most Burmese live in the valleys of the two great river systems—those of the Irrawaddy and the Salween. The Irrawaddy is the larger, draining three-fourths of the country, and is navigable for 900 miles. In outlying regions, there are tracts of land which have not been cleared. These are still covered with dense tropical forests which produce teakwood, ironwood (an



Burmese boys

unusually strong and heavy wood), palms, and bamboo.

These jungles also contain the great game animals that have attracted hunters from the Western world—tigers, leopards, deer, and elephants.

Burma's leading cities are Mandalay, in the central part of the country, and Rangoon, the capital, on the delta of the Irrawaddy River. Mandalay was the subject of Rudyard Kipling's famous poem of the same name. The city was virtually destroyed by fire in 1882, but was rebuilt and today has many modern buildings. It is famous for its gay bazaars, and for monasteries and pagodas of carved teakwood.

Rangoon is a thriving port, and one of the greatest rice markets in the world. A famous shrine, sacred to Buddha, is located in the city.

When Burma gains its independence in January, it will not remain as a dominion within the British Commonwealth of Nations. It will withdraw entirely from the empire, and keep only a few business ties with England. A strong national feeling has always existed among the Burmese people, and hence they have chosen to break political ties with their former rulers.



state of Texas. Its population, numbering 17 million, consists of a dark-skinned Mongolian race. Throughout the years that other countries have dominated their land, the Burmese people have remained isolated and have shunned most modern ways of living. Their dress, for example, is much the same as that of their ancestors. Both men and women wear skirts made of about five yards of material, wrapped

## Historical Backgrounds - - by Harry C. Thomson

DURING the war and postwar periods, the government strictly controlled buying on the "installment plan." It required buyers to make large down payments and allowed only 15 months, in most cases, to pay off the total purchase price. These rules were enforced in order to lessen the demand for scarce articles and keep prices down.

On November first, however, most of these credit restrictions were removed. Merchants are now free to offer any "easy payment plans" they wish. It is up to each businessman to decide what kind of installment credit he will offer his customers. Some stores are advertising goods for sale on the basis of "a dollar down and a dollar a week."

It is too early for us to know what effects the removal of restrictions on installment buying will have on the nation. Some economists warn that many families will go heavily into debt to buy goods which they will not be able to pay for later on. It is also said that too much installment buying will increase the demand for scarce goods still more and thus push prices higher than they are now, finally leading to a depression like that of 1929. Others argue that "easy credit terms" will help families

buy needed household goods for which they are not able to pay cash.

Although widespread installment buying has been common only during the past 50 years, it is really as old as the United States. It was used in one form by many of the earliest settlers who came to our shores. Unable to pay cash for their transportation to America, many immigrants entered into contracts or "indentures" with ship owners. According to these contracts, the settlers became "indentured servants." They worked without pay (except food and clothing) for several years to repay the debt.

After the founding of the federal government, large tracts of public land were sold on the installment plan. The Harrison Land Act of 1800, for example, provided for the sale of western farm land for two dollars an acre, to be paid in installments over a period of four years. A New York firm began to sell furniture on the installment plan as early as 1807.

Installment buying expanded rap-

idly during the early 1900's when it was widely used for the purchase of automobiles. It reached its highest point during the 1920's when millions of American families bought cars, washing machines, radios, and other products "on time."

This resulted in a period of great business prosperity, but it also helped to bring on the depression. Millions of families went so much into debt by buying on the installment plan that they finally had to cut down their purchasing to a minimum. When this happened, factories and farms had to reduce their output.

When the depression came in 1929, millions of workers lost their jobs and were unable to continue making payments on the goods they had bought on credit.

Some economists are warning the American people today not to let this happen again. They are advising families not to go too far into debt for goods which they may not be able to pay for later on. They say that installment buying has many advantages, but it must be used wisely.

### Answers to Vocabulary Test

1. (b) force; 2. (d) widespread; 3. (d) repeat; 4. (c) praise; 5. (d) agitation; 6. (b) hatred; 7. (b) witty.